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The Helms' File

By Maxine Cheshire

CIA director Richard Helms, who presumably already has the top security clearance in government, is nevertheless undergoing an investigation by the FBI before he can be named the new U.S. Ambassador to Iran.

And, if anyone in the FBI believes what its agents have been told about Helms, he may never be confirmed for the diplomatic post.

According to Helms' wife, Cynthia, many of their friends thought it was a joke when they began getting queries from FBI agents who were asking all kinds of probing, personal questions.

So, believing it to be a hoax, many of those quizzed made up outrageous, fanciful answers.

Some gleefully called Helms later to relay to him the dreadful "suspicions" and "damaging innuendos" they said they had voiced about him. Others wrote him letters from afar to inform him they had gone along with what they believed to be a good gag and, accordingly, divulged the worst fiction their minds could conjure.

"Imagine," says Mrs. Helms ruefully, "what our file is going to look like!"

If Helms has any way of getting a peek at his own dossier, he hasn't mentioned it at home.

Bad Week

For Barbar Howar it's been a tough week.

All the publicity over her "garage sale" and her troubles with the Washingtonian magazine over her memoirs apparently attracted the attention of a house-breaker.

She was awakened at 7 a.m. on Tuesday by a loud noise. A burglar who had forced a side window made off with her wallet, containing \$56 and a check for \$6,000.

Strong Serve

Playing tennis in Los Angeles over the Super Bowl weekend, CBS commentator Walter Cronkite waited confidently for his opponent's first serve.

The ball shot across the net and thudded into Cronkite's clavicle. No bones were broken, but Cronkite has new respect for Ethel Kennedy's game.

"I don't know why I was so surprised at how strong she is," he said afterwards. "I just forgot she plays like a Kennedy."

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